

Japan Favors Ratio, but Wants Mutsu; Four-Power Pact Signed; Senate Democrats Plan Fight

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Announcement of Decision on Navy Held Up by Contention Over Substitutes To Be Scrapped

Hughes Summons Experts in Council

Agreement To-morrow,

Adjournment by End of the Week Are Predicted

By Carter Field

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Two important developments to-day carried the Conference on the Limitation of Armament a long way toward the fulfillment of its aims.

It became apparent after the meeting of the Big Three—Secretary Hughes, Arthur J. Balfour and Admiral Kato—that Japan had accepted the 5-5-3 naval ratio proposed by Mr. Hughes, provided she was per-

The other development of first significance was the signing of the four-power treaty drawn by the United States, Great Britain, Japan and France to preserve peace on the Pacific.

Japanese Demands Complex

The contest in the meeting of the Big Three to-day was between Admiral Kato, on the one hand, and Messrs. Hughes and Balfour, on the other. During the discussion, it became known,

Admiral Kato proposed alternative so complicated that Mr. Hughes sent a hurried call for expert naval advice, and soon Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt, Admiral Cointz and Rear-Admiral Pratt were closeted with the Big Three.

Japanese Offer Refused

It is understood that Messrs. Hughes and Baughman have refused the Japanese offer to scrap a much older ship than the Mutsu, and have insisted that if the Mutsu is to be saved Japan must scrap two of her big new battle cruisers of the type of which the United States has none although the United States would scrap the six now under construction under the Hughes plan.

These six United States cruisers range from about 3 per cent completed for the one on which the most has been done to about 20 per cent for the one on which most has been done.

Japan had hoped, after accepting the 5-5-3 ratio, that she would be permitted to retain the Mutsu by scrapping one or possibly two ships so old as to be well on the way to the scrap heap anyhow. This is one of the explanations of the fact that the naval agreement, although in sight for a long time, has been delayed.

First Proposal Rejected

Earlier in the day Mr. Hughes discussed with the American delegation and the same naval advisers the propositions which Admiral Kato had made at yesterday's meeting. It is under-

the original Japanese suggestion which was that the *Mutsu*, by the United States completing the Colorado and Britain one of the *Hood*s, has been definitely rejected. Japan, it was said, to scrap one of the new battle ships but Baron Kato contended that to scrap two of them would reduce the ratio from 5-3 almost to 5-2-2%. The position of both the British and American governments was that even if the 5-3-3 ratio on capital ships should be preserved they would not quarrel over specific ships, except that any change in the list of ships to be scrapped must be fully equalized by scrapping sufficient ships of other types that no suspicion whatever would be left that the nation proposing the substitution might increase her relative

Expect Announcement To-morrow

Despite the technical dispute, which has now become so involved that the American representative on the Rig Three has had to call in naval experts to advise him, the British proposals, there is no pessimism as to the situation here. On the contrary, there is a unanimous conviction among those on the inside that the final agreement on the naval race will be announced at a public session to-morrow.

Every effort to discover the source of this talk about to-morrow for the public session has failed, but the conviction seems persistent. No one in a position to know can make this positive statement, although the expectation that the whole discussion would be ended this week was made very posi-

tively by a man in constant touch with the conference.

The treaty Yan will be signed as soon as it is put in final form. This and the four power treaty are now out of the hands of the diplomats and will be in the hands of the Senate for the developments of the Captivity in the hands of the Senators for purposes of discussion.

President in No Hurry

In connection with the debate on the four-power treaty in the Senate it became known to-day that President Harding is in no great hurry for the Senate to hurry up orders will be issued from the White House. President takes the position that the Senators know what is in the treaty, and that they already have had a chance to study it. He is confident that he knows that two of the treaty's framers, Senators Lodge and Underwood, are the leaders of their parties in the Senate. He knows that there during the debate which will issue after the treaty is before the Senate to answer any questions which may be put.

The President therefore does not